

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] For this reason, another proposal has been made. According to the proposal, an image pick-up element such as a [[COMS]] CMOS sensor that can perform a nondestructive read-out of data is used and a plurality of small area blocks are specified among all of the pixels of the aforementioned image pick-up element. Then, the data of the pixels contained in the specified block is read out in a nondestructive manner. Then, the obtained image data is utilized for a blur-detection.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] For example, Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. H5-130489 discloses that in order to increase the speed of block matching processing, an image pick-up element such as a [[COMS]] CMOS sensor that can perform a nondestructive read-out is used, the data of the pixels contained in the specified blocks among all of the pixels of the aforementioned image pick-up element is read out in a nondestructive manner, and then the read-out pixel data is transmitted to a block matching portion. By utilizing the nondestructive read-out of the pixel data, a blur-detection can be performed by reading out the pixel data plural times at a high-speed period during the exposure.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] However, in the aforementioned nondestructive reading, since the reading in the [[rest]] reset state is not performed, noise cancellation processing cannot be performed within the image pick-up element 403. Therefore, in this embodiment, an implication output for one screen is stored in the memory as an FPN table.

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Then, the noise cancellation processing is performed by subtracting the corresponding implication output from the pixel data.